



SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Remembering Julieanna Freeman

## Northwest student described as a caring and gentle soul by everyone who knew her

**KATIE STEVENSON**  
News Editor | @KatieStevenson

Northwest mourned the death of fellow Bearcat, Julieann Freeman, who died in her off-campus apartment Feb. 22.

Freeman was a junior from Liberty who studied computer science and cybersecurity.

People who knew Freeman, including professor of computer science and information systems Michael Rogers, said she was an amazing and kind individual.

“Julieann was just a wonderful human being — sweet, kind, smart, with so much going for her,” Rogers said.

Fellow professor of computer science and information systems Diana Linville echoed Rogers statement, saying she was a caring and gentle person.

“Julieann was a kind soul with a quiet, calm demeanor and a huge heart,” Linville said. “She was a hard worker who was always willing to assist with any task.”

According to Freeman’s obituary, she was very active on cam-

pus. She was an executive board member of Northwest’s Association for Computer Machinery-Women (ACM), as well as an executive board member for the Cyber Defense Club. Freeman also

know her, and grieve that it was for such an unfairly short time.”

Linville said Freeman was a dedicated student whose loss will directly impact the campus.

“Julieann was an excellent stu-

“**She took care of me,  
and I took care of her.  
We’re a team.”**  
*-Jack Hill, companion*

Founded the Developing Developers Podcast, and had previously served on the Hudson-Perrin Hall Council.

Rogers said he truly got to know Freeman during ACM meetings where she often provided thoughtful and insightful comments.

“In meetings, she’d be a little on the quiet side, but when she’d talk, she’d have something to say that no-one else had thought of,” Rogers said. “I was privileged to

dent, outstanding TA (teacher’s assistant), and gave her time willingly to help those around her,” Linville said. “Her absence will be felt by both faculty and peers, and she will be greatly missed.”

Freeman’s companion of five years Jack Hill said her absence will always be felt and she will be greatly missed.

“She took care of me, and I took care of her. We’re a team,” Hill said.

Visitation and a service celebrating Freeman’s life will be held March 3 at Park Lawn Northland Chapel in Liberty, Missouri. The visitation service will begin at 4 p.m. and the service celebrating Freeman’s life will be held at 5 p.m.

In her obituary, Freeman’s family said donations in memory for her are suggested to Wayside Waifs in Kansas City, Missouri, to remember her love for animals.

According to an email sent out by the President’s Office, any students in need of counseling services can contact Wellness Services at (660) 562-1348, or the University Police Department at (660) 562- 1254 outside of regular business hours. Faculty and staff can call the University employee assistance program at (800) 964-3577. A county counseling support line also is available to all members of the Northwest community at (888) 279-8188.

The cause of Freeman’s death is still unknown and is under investigation by the Maryville Public Safety Department.

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NEWS

# Fraternity suspended for hazing allegation

**RACHEL ADAMSON**  
Assistant News Editor | @racheladamsonxi

The University’s Office of Student Involvement has suspended at least one fraternity since the beginning of February.

Sigma Phi Epsilon President Tyler Dinsmore confirmed the chapter has stopped social engagement with the community while it is being investigated for an alleged hazing violation.

“Feb. 6, we received a notice from the Office of Student Involvement, informing us that they were commencing an investigation into an alleged hazing incident involving a member of our chapter,” Dinsmore said. “They did not share any specifics or a date that the alleged incident occurred; they merely stated that they had received a report of an alleged incident.”

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Kori Hoffmann declined to comment on any specific investigations.

“We don’t really speak on any specific organizations or anything like that, especially while we are doing an investigation,” Hoffmann

said. “If we’re doing an investigation on any particular organization or student, we would never speak specifically to that.”

Hoffmann said if there is reliable credibility in a report, the University will do a cease-and-desist.

“(Cease-and-desist) is typically in place while we do an investigation because we don’t want to wait two, three, four weeks before we issue any type of sanction if it’s appropriate,” Hoffmann said. “If those allegations are true, they could still be ongoing while we are doing the investigation. Really, it’s just a way to protect any students on campus or that may be apart of those organizations.”

Dinsmore said his chapter is fully cooperating with the University and the fraternity’s headquarters staff.

“The University clearly takes any allegations of hazing seriously and have committed to swiftly investigate this matter to determine if a violation has in fact occurred,” Dinsmore said. “We are looking forward to having this matter resolved soon.”

If allegations are proven true, Hoffmann said the organization



SUBMITTED | NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY GREEK LIFE FACEBOOK PAGE  
Members of Greek Life pose with a banner pledging not to haze during Hazing Prevention Week 2016. At least one fraternity on campus is under investigation for hazing allegations.

will go before a hearing board to receive an appropriate sanction.

Hoffmann said after the investigation for an organization is concluded, that information could be released in a formal notification because it impacts the entire com-

munity.

“That doesn’t mean we will; that doesn’t mean we have to,” Hoffmann said. “It means we could do that; there’s potential for that.” The University Police Department received reports of hazing Feb. 14

at 940 College Ave., the Phi Sigma Kappa house. UPD turned this report over to the Office of Student Involvement. At time of publication, there is no confirmation of suspension.

## Reported cases of dating violence on the rise for Northwest campus

**MATTHEW BERRY**  
Chief Reporter | @TheMatthewBerry

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department (UPD) has reported an increase in dating violence on campus.

Police Chief Clarence Green said there have been three reported instances of dating violence in a span of 10 days.

“Having three in 10 days, we have seen an increase for sure,” Green said.

Dating/relationship violence is a violation of Title IX and Northwest’s sexual harassment policy. Green said dating violence is not

a criminal statute under Missouri law. Green further explains that the reports made direct threats of violence.

“In our cases, in which we received a report, it has been two folks that are in a dating relationship where some sort of threat of violence has been applied or said between those two individuals,” Green said.

When UPD receives a report, Green says they investigate to see if there is a criminal offense occurring or if it is a Title IX offense. If it is a Title IX offense, then they will investigate the report.

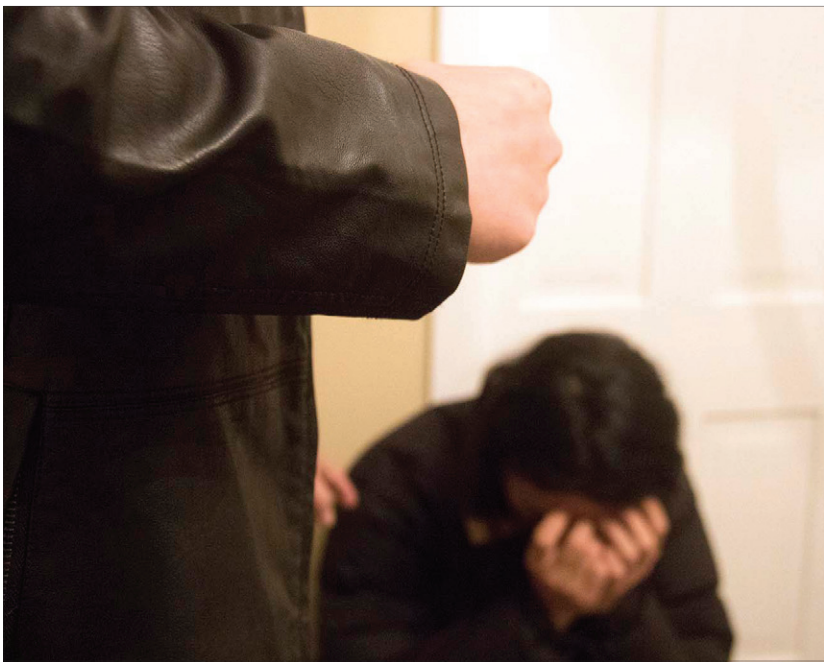
Director of Equity (Title IX) and Accessibility Margaret Pierre

explained the process.

“After receiving and reviewing said report, I meet with the victim, accuser and witness to gather information in reference to the reported incident,” Pierre said.

Following that, Pierre then determines whether or not a Title IX case should be opened.

“After said meetings, a determination is made by me whether to officially open a Title IX case, and have the case proceed to the next level of the University’s Judicial System through my office (the Title IX Office), which is a formal investigation where recorded state-



COLIN CAIN | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
Recent reports of dating violence on campus have spiked with three reported incidents in a 10-day span.

ments are taken of the victim, accused and witnesses by the Title IX investigator,” Pierre said.

The final decision on the case is made by Pierre.

“At the conclusion of the investigation, the Title IX investigator submits the investigation findings from which I issue a decision on the matter,” Pierre said.

Pierre said if she determines a violation, a variety of actions can be taken, depending on the severity of the case.

“Possible sanctions can include expulsion from the university, suspension from the university for a specified time, i.e. a semester, disciplinary probation, no contact order, or mandatory requirement to take additional Title IX training,” Pierre said.

Pierre also said students should not feel concerned about reporting these instances.

“Students should never feel worried nor concern about reporting relationship violence/abuse,” Pierre said. “We work hard to insure the students that we are here to assist them.”

Green also finds that reporting

is important.

“Any time that you feel like something has went on that’s wrong or traumatic in your life, or someone that’s being abusive towards you or threatening towards you, by all means, you should be reporting those things immediately, so that we can make sure that you’re safe, as well as that we’re resourcing to make sure that you are receiving the proper things to heal from that incident,” Green said.

Reporting early on, even if it is just verbal threats, is important to Green.

“It’s allowing an encounter to happen. It’s allowing both parties to be evaluated and vetted by law enforcement (and) by Title IX,” Green said. “That could be the stop gap, the wakeup call, the intervention that’s needed to prevent someone from being physically violent.”

If you or someone you know is being abused emotionally or physically, you are encouraged to contact UPD at 660-562-1254 or by dialing 911.

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# Local business offers new spa service

ABBEY HUGO

Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

Brighton Wellness Spa recently added microblading to its repertoire of spa services. This is the first and only place in Maryville to offer the microblading procedure.

The spa has paired with Ashton Markt, a St. Joseph, Missouri, resident, to offer microblading appointments in Maryville every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Microblading, also known as microstroking, is a form of semi-permanent tattooing that creates the appearance of thicker, fuller eyebrows by inserting pigment into the skin in hair-like strokes through the use of a blade-like needle.

Markt’s website defines it as, “the process of placing semi-permanent pigment into the skin to define and shape the brows with hair strokes for natural-looking results.”

“It’s similar to a tattoo in the sense that it’s pigment getting inserted into the skin. Unlike a tattoo, it is actually semi-permanent,” Markt said. “Instead of a block of color like a lot of tattooed eyebrows look like, it’s each individual hair stroke that



RACHEL ADAMSON | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

A local spa has added microblading to the services it offers, with appointments available every Tuesday.

gets drawn in. It looks very natural, and it’s more subtle than a tattoo would be.”

Microblading is a popular cosmetic procedure for those with thin or nonexistent eyebrows. It is an understated and customizable solution to those

common issues.

“It’s not going to be a huge change that everyone is going to know you had something done. It just helps make your face look a little more normal and more balanced,” Markt said. “And with the colors, I have everything

from light blonde to black, so it’s not like you’re going to walk out of the salon with black eyebrows if that’s not what you need.”

Freshman Tessa Schlatter expressed that one of the biggest prospective advantages of microblading is sheer convenience and

the lack of necessary upkeep.

“I would say that the appeal of them right now is that they eliminate the need to fill in your eyebrows, which has been a huge trend lately,” Schlatter said.

The benefits of microblading are more than skin-deep. Fine eyebrows can be a source of insecurity for many women.

“It’s good to restore these women’s confidence when thin eyebrows or no eyebrows is something they really struggle with. They feel better when they get that fixed, and I am happy to do that for them,” Markt said.

When considering microblading, many have concerns regarding pain. Fortunately, a topical anesthetic is used to numb the area.

“I have a lot of people actually fall asleep during the procedure, so pain is not an issue,” Markt shared.

The price is \$600. That includes the initial appointment, lasting one and a half to two hours and a follow up appointment four to eight weeks later.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

# State lawmakers try to limit employer access to personal accounts

SAMANTHA COLLISON

Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

A Missouri Senate committee is considering a bill preventing employers, educational institutions and landlords from requiring or coercing applicants, students, renters or employees to disclose usernames and passwords for on-line accounts.

Senate Bill 899, proposed by Sen. Caleb Rowden, also prohibits requirements to add employers, educational institutions and landlords to contact lists and actions,

or threats to take action, against an applicant, student, renter or employee who refuses to allow access to their accounts.

If account information is inadvertently received, the recipient may not use the information or share the information.

“Any person claiming a violation of this act may bring legal action if they have been injured by the violation,” according to the bill summary at senate.mo.gov. “Available relief shall include actual damages, reasonable attor-

ney’s fees and other costs of litigation and equitable relief, as may be appropriate. Data obtained, accessed, used, copied, disclosed, or retained in violation of this act shall not be admissible in any criminal, civil, administrative or other proceeding.”

The bill was proposed in January and the last action on the bill was a hearing by the General Laws Committee Feb. 14.

According to the Columbia Missourian, Sarah Baker from American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU) of Missouri testified in favor of the bill. She equated going through someone’s accounts as the modern equivalent of reading someone’s diary.

The ACLU is in favor of this bill as a defense of first amendment rights and a protection against invasions of privacy.


Freshman James Palmer said that asking for a password is an invasion of privacy, but noted that the information on social media is often less private than what would be found on an application or in a

student’s record.

“I think that unless you have something to hide, you shouldn’t be opposed to giving your password,” Palmer said. “I think that you have to provide a lot more important information already, such as address and financial situation, that asking for a social media password shouldn’t be a big deal.”

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

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OUR VIEW:

# University hazy on Greek allegations

Sigma Phi Epsilon has been suspended after reports of hazing in the fraternity. The strange thing, however, is the university’s reluctance to speak up on the issue.

The Bearcat family is tight nit, so a lack of transparency seems disingenuous to say the least. Considering the concealing of Sigma Phi Epsilon’s temporary suspension comes mostly by way of University decision, the secrecy hurts just a bit more.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was only suspended for suspicions of hazing. Even still, this was apparently deemed too controversial for Bearcats to be made aware of. All kinds of questions crop up after secrecy has light shed on it, but this time around, the question is simple: Why?

Why does a University that should pride itself on honesty always seem to suppress the gunshot that is reports of hazing, rape or public indecency? Northwest’s values, located just under its mission statement, highlights “respect and integrity.” Northwest’s ‘DNA’ includes “being socially responsible.”

What is respectful about purposely keeping information in the shadows? Consistently camouflaging Greek Life discrepancies stands in direct contrast to the definition of ‘integrity,’ and “being socially responsible” is hardly something Northwest seems to be striving toward, at least when it comes to these matters.

If providing “beautiful and safe surroundings” means hiding things from the students who give the campus life, then Northwest needs to reassess.

These reports are at best something the Bearcat ‘family’ should be warned of and at worst crimes that put student well-being at risk. Greek Life complications are few and far between and only represent a minority more often than not, but they still exist and we deserve to know.

Beyond safety and a general need for transparency, students should be allowed to know why events such as Mr. Northwest have been cancelled.

Mr. Northwest is a yearly pageant responsible for adding a feeling of levity to a world that normally takes itself too seriously. Furthermore, Mr. Northwest always manages to rake in thousands of dollars for the Special Olympics. Now, because too many fraternities are facing suspension, the potential good it could have done.

Where is the hang up here? If not for digging and the inevitability of word of mouth, this information would not reach the public. Should students just be left in the dark about something affecting the entire Maryville population?

All we ask for is a bit of more professionalism. Word will always



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

get around, especially in a school environment; why keep everything behind closed doors?

Transparency at the university level is not just about staying open about serious problems with

in campus walls. It is about maintaining the message of “focusing on student success – every student, every day,” and keeping controversy under wraps inhibits this mission.

OPEN LETTER:

## Concerned Missourian wants to hear plan on gun control

Dear Congressman Graves,  
I need to hear your plan. I grew up in this congressional district, just north of the Missouri River in Kansas City. 150 people were murdered in KCMO last year, most by gunshot. I have lived in Kirksville for nearly 20 years now. Bullets took lives here in 2017, too. (February 14), children were shot and killed at a high school in Florida. Nationwide, over 15,000 people died from gunfire last year. An additional 22,000 people died from suicide with a gun in this country.

That is over 37,000 people in the United State of America who died last year from gunshot wounds.

You and I are on opposite ends of the political spectrum. We differ on much, just as all Missourians do throughout this district. Having and working with differing views is American. I would fathom a guess those differences extend to our thoughts on reducing gun related deaths. You disagree with me on expanding background checks, increasing taxpayer funded mental health support and banning firearms that are designed to rapidly kill multiple people. You and I disagree.

I need to hear your plan. If not my ideas, what are yours? We cannot prevent all relat-

ed deaths, how about a plan from you to reduce that number by 20,000 people a year? We can surely agree that a plan with real efficacy could do that, right? When can the voters of Missouri’s Sixth Congressional District expect to read an advance of your bill with a comprehensive strategy? When will you and your cosponsors bring this bill to the floor of the Hose? When is the Rose Garden signing ceremony slated for? I will tune in to watch the President sign his name to your bill.

What we cannot abide is inaction... again... on the part of the US Congress. Show us and fight to pass a plan that works to save 20,000 lives a year, and I will be a liberal Democrat out there urging voters to support that kind of political courage.

I need to hear your plan, Congressman. We all do. Simply doing nothing to comprehensively reduce gun related deaths just isn’t cutting it.

Sincerely,  
Zac Burden  
Kirksville, Missouri

## ‘Black Panther’ is the hero Hollywood needs



Since premiering two weeks ago, “Black Panther” has garnered a record breaking near \$700 million in worldwide ticket sales and \$400 million in domestic sales, but has the movie succeeded for the right reasons?

Considering most of the revenue came from American audiences, it is no surprise that many have started trying to determine why exactly “Black Panther” has managed to gain so much attention. Breaking Marvel movie records is more important to pay attention to when Black Panther as a character is much lesser known than say, Thor or The Incredible Hulk.

Many have turned to blaming the film’s success on the social climate in America. Large portions of Americans have been listing the president as a racist or bigot and there have been more occurrences of racism cropping up in 2017 than in years past. There have even been reports of assaults outside screenings of the movie, though these have been almost entirely debunked. So an almost entirely all-black cast has no doubt drawn eyes and audiences to screenings.

The issue, however, is that most believe that the sole reason many are traveling to theaters to see the movie is specifically because of its almost entirely all black casting. The question being raised by these complaints is ‘Is it OK for a movie to draw in fans strictly because of its cast’s race or gender?’

In short: Yes, of course it is OK.

“Black Panther” is an envelope pusher, and deserves every bit of praise for going out of its way to promote diverse casts in American films. Hollywood has been lowering the artistic ceiling for decades by showing a lack of diversity in film. Those who question success

because of a cast’s race or gender need to reassess, because they have clearly focused on the wrong aspect of film.

If a film’s ultimate goal is to make the viewer think, then “Black Panther” excels on every level.

Furthermore, any who have seen the movie will recognize the immense talent found in each member of the cast. Michael B. Jordan finds more depth and character in Killmonger than any Marvel villain before him and the supporting cast kills it in every second of screen time. If anything, the film’s lead is the weakest point of the movie by bringing an occasionally dull performance. Even then, star Chadwick Boseman has moments of true unforgettable badassery.

One viewing makes it clear that these actors are not just in the film because of their race, they are here because they are performers that would even make P. T. Barnum proud.

It is hard to think a cast’s race in film is anything worth sparking controversy over, but there will always be those looking to start an argument.

Some have also pointed out their belief that “Black Panther” does not deserve the mountains of praise it has received because it has been ‘overhyped.’ Put simply, some do not like the movie.

From a subjective stance, it is OK to just not enjoy a movie. This movie does not feel like any Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movie before it, so those hoping to get more of the same will likely be disappointed. Its connections to the MCU are rare, giving it a feeling of isolation.

This is exactly the kind of thing pushing for large ticket sales though. Almost the entire movie takes place inside Wakanda. Wakanda in and of itself is secluded and hidden from the world, so if anything, it makes sense that Captain America or Iron Man never come in.

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## Bearcats should paws on housing pets



University is a beautiful place for personal fulfillment and growth. This, however, comes at the price of busy weeks and often hectic weekends. That being said, University is not the place to take care of other living creatures, other than perhaps that friend who drinks a little too much.

Okay, sure, ‘Sparkles’ is probably the cutest cat on the block, but factoring in physics lab, U.S. history reading and the English essay you’ve been meaning to write,

Sparkles is most likely thoroughly depressed from a lack of attention. There is no way a college student can balance work, school, friendships and Sparkles’ well-being.

You might be thinking to yourself, ‘Well, of course I can,’ with an upset scowl on your face resembling that of Sparkles when she doesn’t get to play with her favorite toy. Let me be the first to tell you, I know my opinion is unpopular with the rise of emotional support animals. I understand their importance to some people, but I fail to realize how adding another component of stress in your life will make it any easier.

As students, we don’t have the time to tell Sparkles not to piss on the curtains. More than this, we don’t have the money to get them

replaced either. Tight budgets might mean you can’t quite get the medical care for your pet when they need it, or worse yet, can’t do laundry that week because your paycheck came in late.

It still unsettles me that people are fine with leaving their pet, more likely than not, in a small apartment all day long while they go to classes, chat with friends and socialize. Imagine what your precious Sparkles gets to do. Have you ever been to prison? It’s kind of like that, but with more pillows to rip open.

Taking in a pet is a long-term commitment that I simply don’t believe most college students are ready to undertake.

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STAFF  
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# State aims to eliminate vehicle inspections

CAMERON MONTEMAYOR  
Missourian Reporter | @CameronNWMSU

Sweeping changes to mandatory inspection laws are being discussed, after a bill seeking to eliminate mandatory inspections was heard by the Missouri House.

Missouri lawmakers are debating whether or not this law actually improves or maintains road and vehicle safety.

Missouri falls in the minority of states that still have mandatory inspection laws. 34 states, including all of Missouri’s bordering neighbors, have eliminated this requirement.

Missouri law requires that a vehicle five years or older undergo an inspection every two years, a loose departure from laws a few years ago that required annual inspections for every vehicle.

Missouri Rep. John Eggleston of Maysville introduced the bill to the House, with support from Kansas City Rep. Kevin Corlew, who also serves as the chairman of the Missouri Transportation Task Force.

Eggleston’s rationale behind the bill is there doesn’t appear to be any connection between vehicle safety inspections and actual safety.

“Little by little, one by one, states have decided that these are kind of a waste of time. There’s no statistical benefit that can be shown to having the inspections. They cost people money, they’re a hassle, just get rid of them,” Eggleston said to St. Joe News-Press.

Missouri inspection prices typically range from \$12 for passenger vehicles to \$10 for motorcycles, the same cost as a movie ticket.

Other states with mandato-



Missouri lawmakers are working to eliminate current regulations requiring inspections on vehicles five years or older every two years.

ry laws, like Pennsylvania, charge even more, between \$16 and \$23.

James Beemer, the owner of Beemer’s Muffler Center in Maryville, has provided inspection and auto repair services for close to twenty years.

He said it’s a good thing Missouri requires regular inspections, but worries what might happen if the state eliminated them altogether.

“What we see as a shop, the stuff that comes down out of Iowa, we see a lot more problems with them mechanically as far from being safe on the roads. We also see the same thing out of Kansas,” Beemer said.

He said many vehicle owners will not fix their vehicles unless they’re forced to do it.

“A lot of people don’t pay attention to their brakes until something actually happens. You don’t catch a lot of stuff like ball joints, brakes, tires - things that are very critical for control of your vehicle,” Beemer said.

Beemer also said a former Iowa mechanic, now working in his inspection department, told him he couldn’t believe how much better the vehicles looked here.

In Missouri’s manual of motor vehicle inspection regulations, a number of inspections can easi-

ly be checked by the casual driver, like horns, mirrors, wipers, headlights, turn signals and high beams.

Other parts of a vehicle, like the brake system, steering components and front and rear wheel bearings are more complex systems that usually require a variety of inspector tests.

The drum and disc components of two different types of brake systems, in particular, have 18 safety measures that require testing.

This varies depending on the make or model, especially for emergency and commercial vehicles with inspections mandated by the state.

If inspections laws were eliminated, it would notably increase the obligations and responsibilities of vehicle owners to look out and study their vehicles.

A correlation between vehicle inspection laws, traffic safety and fatality data have sent mixed signals.

11 of the 15 remaining states with mandatory inspection laws have traffic fatality rates that are lower or meet the national average.

Two U.S. states with some of the highest rates of vehicle fatalities, Florida and Texas, are on opposite sides regarding inspection legislation.

While fatality rates are high overall in Florida, rates have remained relatively consistent since removing inspection laws in 1981. With inspection laws still in place, Texas’s fatality statistics are higher than both Florida and California, which has 12 million more people and no mandatory inspection laws.

Following New Jersey’s decision to drop the law in 2010, traffic fatality rates have remained steady in five of the six years since, and in 2013 had its lowest fatality rate in decades, according to a New Jersey radio report.

Eggleston’s inspection bill will aim to have similar results on Missouri’s vehicle fatality rates, which are three points higher than the national average.

The next step for House Bill 144 is another hearing scheduled for Feb. 28.

“If changed, Missouri’s inspection laws will follow a growing trend among U.S. states, and one with results that have yet to be truly determined,” Beemer said. “Once you do away with it, it’s hard to get it back.”

## APPROPRIATIONS

Student Senate appropriated \$1,500 dollars to: **International Student Organization** for its Spring Food Festival.

Student Senate appropriated \$884 dollars to: **Alpha Sigma Alpha** for its national conference.

## Maryville ranked as safest college town in Missouri, sixth city overall

ABBEY HUGO  
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

The National Council for Home Safety and Security named Maryville the sixth safest city in Missouri for 2018.

Maryville did particularly well in comparison to other Missouri college towns.

Maryville Public Safety Director Keith Wood said Maryville takes the safety and the security of the city very seriously.

The safe atmosphere Maryville provides is reassuring for all students and residents both in town and on campus.

“I think that (safety) is a high priority for any community, it’s just that they’re unfortunately not able to achieve it in the manner that we are,” Wood said. “It’s easier to go put your head on the pillow at night realizing you’re family is safe (rather) than going to sleep in a community that has a lot of activity and crime going on and you’re wondering if you’re going to be the next person while your sleeping.”

According to Alarms.org, which published the list, Missouri’s overall crime rates are slightly above the national average. It is estimated to have an average of 7.80 violent crimes per 1,000 inhabitants and 39.81 average property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.

That being said, Maryville, among the other towns at the top of the list, combat that stigma by demonstrating exemplary levels of safety and security within those communities.

At the very top of the list sits Ballwin followed by Town and Country.

Ballwin is an upper-middle-class suburb of St. Louis. According to the Alarms.org article, Ballwin has been named one of the best places to live in the U.S. several times by multiple publications.

Town and Country has the highest median household income

in Missouri, and one of the highest in the nation.

After O’Fallon, Webster Groves and Wentzville, Maryville comes in at the sixth safest city. It is the first by definition “college town” featured on the list; the only town in the top six containing a university with an undergraduate enrollment over 6,000.

College towns generally experience added difficulty in maintaining a high standard of safety and security.

“The student population, you have to realize that that age range tends to have frequent contacts will law enforcement in general across the board for various reasons because they’re more active people out and around,” Wood said.

Columbia, home of the University of Missouri, is ranked a lowly 37. Springfield, home of Missouri State, nears the bottom of the list, being the 71st safest town in Missouri.

Compared to other cities throughout the state, Maryville handles the added challenge of being a college town with grace. Wood said the students’ etiquette and efforts are to thank for that.

“We have a very heavy ratio of students to general population, and I think our students are always pretty adept at understanding what is acceptable and how to conduct themselves in our community and that helps keep us safer also...” Wood said. “Our students get here and they take pride in being a Bearcat. They take pride in the fact they’re in Maryville, Missouri, and they tend to take it personally to take care of the community.”

Safety is a major factor students consider when choosing a college. Maryville’s comfortable environment appeals to prospective students. Freshman Anna Swink said that is what most attracted her to Northwest.

“When visiting other campuses, Maryville was the only campus that felt safe to me, and that was one of the biggest factors when I was trying to decide on

my school,” Swink said. “It had to be safe and it had to feel like my home away from home.”

Maryville also outshines towns in the area such as St. Joseph which is listed at 64.

“We sit high and above, especially in the northwest Missouri sector, which would be our general region,” Wood said. “Folks know there is a general crime problem in the St. Joseph area, and even some of the other community that is closer to our own size don’t fare as well as we do.”

Compared to the state average, Maryville has significantly lower crime rates: 2.87 violent crimes per 1,000 inhabitants and 11.64 average property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.

This can be largely credited to the extensive safety measures put in place by the Maryville Department of Public Safety and the University Police Department.

The strong presence of these organizations is well known and greatly appreciated.

Freshman Caleb Liles expressed recognition and gratitude. “I feel safe in Maryville and especially on the campus with the 24-hour rounds that UPD does,” Liles said. “I also feel safe because when driving around, no matter what time, I always see police out cruising around, which ensure me they are watching out for us. I believe that it (Maryville) is safe because of the police and security that is in place now.”

Maryville’s safety and security are attributed to more than just the measures taken by campus and city police. It is also accredited to the camaraderie and trust among residents, especially on campus.

“Northwest is a small campus in a small town where you get to know about everyone in your class and you get to make a connection with your teachers,” Swink said. “Being able to be more connected on campus makes Northwest a safer campus.”

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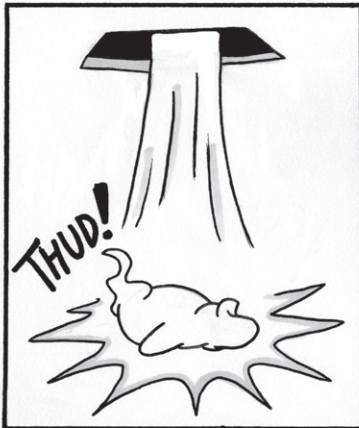
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## DIVERSIONS

# Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

# GUESS WHO

**I have created some of the most popular TV shows to ever be aired on NBC. I love to focus on the work of police officers, firefighters, lawyers and doctors in the cities of New York and Chicago. In the past decade I have had nine different shows on NBC and now my name is synonymous with prime time television.**

**I also create popular TV shows, but for ABC and I have an entire night full of just my shows. Every Thursday night I give my viewers a glimpse into the White House, a Seattle hospital and the inner workings of our legal system. I am now working on my next big hit with Netflix as a Netflix original series.**

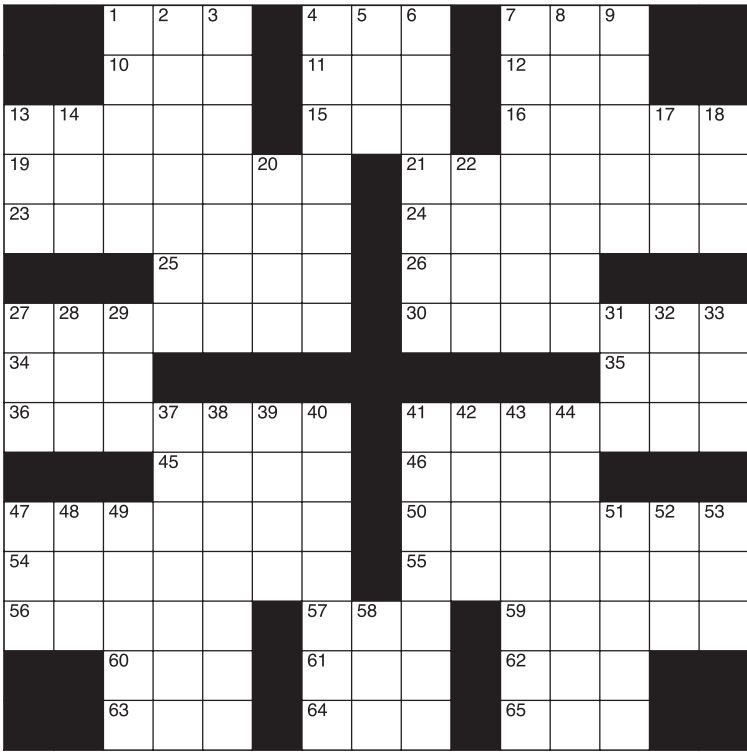
JAMES CHRISTENSEN | NW MISSOURIAN

# CROSSWORD

## By MetroCreative

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop or cut
4. Green veggie
7. Bar bill
10. Doctors' group
11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)
12. Be in debt
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Singer Charles
16. Polish city
19. Former
21. Dismissing from employment
23. Minerals
24. Plotted
25. Consult
26. After a prayer
27. Agents of one's downfall
30. Leaseholders
34. Supervises flying
35. Voodoo god
36. Alfalfa
41. Apply another coat to
45. Witnesses
46. Jai \_\_\_, sport
47. Ones who proof
50. Recant
54. Small group with shared interests
55. Part of warming headgear
56. Woolen cloth
57. Snag
59. Central American fruit tree
60. Woman (French)
61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
62. Type of bed
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Consume
65. Japanese freight company (abbr.)



## CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
2. Able to arouse intense feeling
3. Elk
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Geological time
6. Depths of the ocean
7. Burns to the ground
8. Becomes cognizant of
9. Cause to shade
13. US political party
14. Refers to some of a thing
17. Single
18. Type of beer
20. Ancient Iranian people
22. Grocery chain
27. Gridiron league
28. English river
29. \_\_\_ and cheese
32. Long time
33. High schoolers' test
37. Respects
38. Organize anew
39. Filippo \_\_\_, Saint
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Cheese dish
42. Ancient Greek City
43. Patron saint of Ireland
44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
47. Shock treatment
48. \_\_\_ Jones
49. Things
51. Having wings
52. Panthers' QB Newton
53. Third-party access
58. Satisfaction

# SUDOKU

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			8		5			
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6			5				2	
		4					5	
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	9			4				
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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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4	1	3	8	6	9	7	5	2
6	9	4	1	3	2	8	7	5
5	2	1	9	8	7	4	6	3
8	3	7	5	4	6	1	2	9
2	4	9	6	1	8	5	3	7
1	7	8	2	5	3	9	4	6
3	6	5	7	9	4	2	8	1

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S	T	A	N	D	E	E			E	N	H	A
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# AfterDark

## Concert shines a light on faith

MICHAEL CRIPE

A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

A night where music and message meet is finally on its way to Northwest, and it is all thanks to AfterDark.

Most have likely seen the dozens of sidewalk chalk writings around campus promoting AfterDark, but it is unlikely they know exactly what the event is.

The Missouri-based organization promises undeniable hype, unprecedented hope and an unbelievable night. These promises the AfterDark plans to fulfill this Tuesday are not just predicated on belief, they are built on years of meeting or surpassing the expectations of students.

For 18 years, the faith-rooted organization has performed for more than 500,000 students and 200 campuses. The event accomplishes this through spreading a message of unfiltered inclusivity. Everyone has been in dark times, everyone has seen the darkness of life and everyone, student or not, is invited to experience what life can be like after darkness.

AfterDark is comprised of two sections: a full-scale concert and a speaker with the message of “is Jesus relevant today?” The concert will feature KB, a Florida Christian rapper, and Anthem Lights, an American pop group.

All three of these main attractions are meant to perpetuate the open invitation that is AfterDark by offering something for everyone.

D’Vante Mosby, a biology and psychology major and 5th year student, is working as one of the coordinators and is a guest speaker for the event. D’Vante is proud of the team AfterDark has built up to bring AfterDark to Maryville, and says the event offers a great opportunity for any and all to explore.

“Whether you leave the event with something or walk away more firm in your opinion on the subject, I think it will definitely be worth your time,” Mosby said. “Not to mention, the event is free. Unless your Tuesday night is going to be crazy, then why not check it out?”

Mosby says the event can especially be beneficial to seniors. Based on his personal experience, there is nothing students can lose



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

D’Vante Mosby will be a special guest speaker during After Dark but is also serving the project as a volunteer, helping to promote the event among other things.

by at least coming to the event to see how they can broaden their horizons.

His advice also relates to how he feels about campus ministries.

“I may not leave this place with the perfect job or GPA or any other thing we’re expected to have, but I am so glad that I asked some questions that deal with my spirituality and the direction I want to take my life,” Mosby said. “These questions and deeper growth happens around other people who have a past and are trying to figure life out as well. In my experience, I’ve met some of these people by getting involved with small groups on and off campus.”

The crew behind bringing AfterDark to Northwest does not want this Tuesday to be seen as just another event or even the standard campus ministry event. They want AfterDark to be a game

changer, both for what the campus can offer and for students who feel they might be stuck in a rut.

Zenova Harris, a senior psychology major, is ‘an assistant to Jesus in terms of making this thing happen,’ and says AfterDark is the boundary pusher that some students need to move forward.

“AfterDark can be a life chang-

relationship with Jesus and bring awareness to many that they are not alone when life gets tough.”

Harris added that AfterDark is a sign of the moves God is making in Maryville. She says faith is something spreading on campus rapidly, so AfterDark arrival just makes sense.

“God is making big moves in Maryville, so this was, like, perfect timing,” Harris said. “One of those moves is our campus ministries growing the way that they are. This is a great opportunity to allow God to keep working on our ministries and bringing people closer to Him.”

Often times there can be a negative stigma surrounding those who have strong religious beliefs. Chloe Faris, a second-year senior majoring in vocal music education, is in charge of promoting the event through The Bridge church. She says she is aware of the stigma, and so is AfterDark.

“AfterDark can be a life changing event. Hearing the good news on Tuesday, March 6th, could possibly be the turning point in someone’s life.”

-Zenova Harris

ing event. Hearing the good news on Tuesday, March 6th, could possibly be the turning point in someone’s life,” Harris said. “There is high hopes that AfterDark will spark conversation about eternal things, cause many to be curious about what it’s like to have a re-

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DARK

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REACH RECORDS

ANTHEM LIGHTS  
REUNION RECORDS

D’VANTE MOSBY  
SPECIAL GUEST

FREE EVENT



# Dance show steps up its game

SARAH VON SEGGERN

A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

With more than 100 members, the Northwest Dance Company (NWDC) has many performances that are bound to dance their way into the audience’s hearts.

NWDC is a student-run organization focusing on dance, teamwork and inclusiveness, while still cultivating relationships between every member. Its spring showcase will be at the Ron Houston Performing Arts Center March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

For the spring semester, NWDC has upped the amount of performances its members will be doing. Instead of 12 dances, there are 14, due to the increase in membership, along with adding one more short act. This ensured all the dancers got different opportunities. The dances in this show will involve different music from U2 and Stix, rather than the usual pop genre.

Senior psychology major and president of NWDC Rollens Hardy is excited for the amount of talent this recital will showcase.

“A lot of people are putting their heart and souls into their piece, so I hope that translates really well on stage,” Hardy said.

Hardy has been dancing since she was three, and is happy she got to continue her passion in college. After only a year of being in the organization, she was able to get an executive position through her connections and hard work. Through her first year as president, she worked hard to maintain strong relationships between all the members.

“Freshman year, I didn’t really know a whole lot of people,” Hardy said. “I knew like a handful of people, so the fact that I joined Dance Company was where I made all of my friends. That also kind of kept me there because I wanted to create that for other people.”

Junior business major Kara Parman is a returning dancer who can only participate in the spring performance, due to being involved in the Bearcat Marching

Band in the fall semester. This is her fourth semester as an active member of NWDC.

“(I was) just making a lot of friends,” Parman said. “I had never done hip-hop before, they always told me I got swag. That was really fun.”

While competition can bring people together, the want and will to dance has created bonds stronger than winning ever would. Dancing has always connected people from all walks of life, even those who would usually not be seen together, such as girls from different sororities and fraternity boys.

“(I come back for) my friends and, it kind of becomes a family in a sense,” Parman said. “You spend time with them, tech week for sure. Everyone is stressed out, and you kind of support each other. It’s just a really nice organization because everyone’s really chill. No one’s really mean about it. They’re not competitive because it’s not a

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN

The Northwest Dance Company has just over 100 members, but will lose 25 following graduation this spring.

## THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants you to carpe diem

After this past week, I honestly could not believe we had lost another member of our Northwest family. The longer I am here on this campus, the more you all feel like a family to me. While I may remain anonymous with this story, I care about every single one of you.

Julieann was a friend of mine, and we had been in a number of organizations together. Her death signifies at least seven students have passed away in the last three years, and those seven family members have been taken from our Northwest family.

While it is a part of life to experience grief and lose people we care about, it never seems to get any easier over time. It is times like these we need to come together as a family and remember the lives of people we have lost this academic year alone.

It is up to us to live for them, and carry their memory wherever

we go and in whatever we do. We should be grateful that we woke up this morning, got to go to our classes and talk to the people we love.

While it may feel like an unbearable amount of pain to grieve for those that we lost, it will get better over time, even if the pain will never completely go away.

I have had to bury three friends in the course of one semester, and there is not a single day that I don’t think about them when I am going about my everyday business. It also makes me think about what life would be like if they were still alive today.

If you need someone to talk to, reach out to your family, friends and, if you feel comfortable, a certified grief counselor.

As my Sunday school teacher told me when I was little, things happen for a reason, whether we want them to happen or not.

How we respond to grief helps

us develop as human beings and help us experience the tragedies paired with life.

While the immediate pain will fade, the other phases of grief will soon arrive and the subsequent periods of anger and depression will be with us for probably the rest of this academic term.

“It would be impossible to estimate how much time we invest in trying to fix, change and deny our emotions -- especially the ones that shake us at our core, like hurt, jealousy, loneliness, shame, rage and grief,” Debbie Ford said.

Again, if you need someone to talk to, reach out and find someone to talk to. We are all one big Bearcat family. We will get through this.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

# MARCH EVENTS

PRESENTED BY



MAR 1

**Grocery Bingo**

7:00 pm @ The Union Ballroom

MAR 8

**Mama Rwanda**

7:00 pm @ Charles Johnson Theater

MAR 8

**Late Night at the Rec**

7:00 pm @ Student Rec Center

MAR 12

**Self Defense Training with UPD**

7:00 pm @ Station

MAR 27

**Shangela**

7:00 pm @ Charles Johnson Theater

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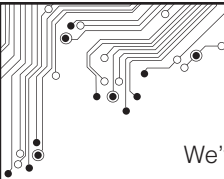
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# Senior claims referee recognition

TRENT SPINNER  
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

As the lack of referees becomes a bigger problem each day, one Northwest student proves the strong still survive in the refereeing scene.

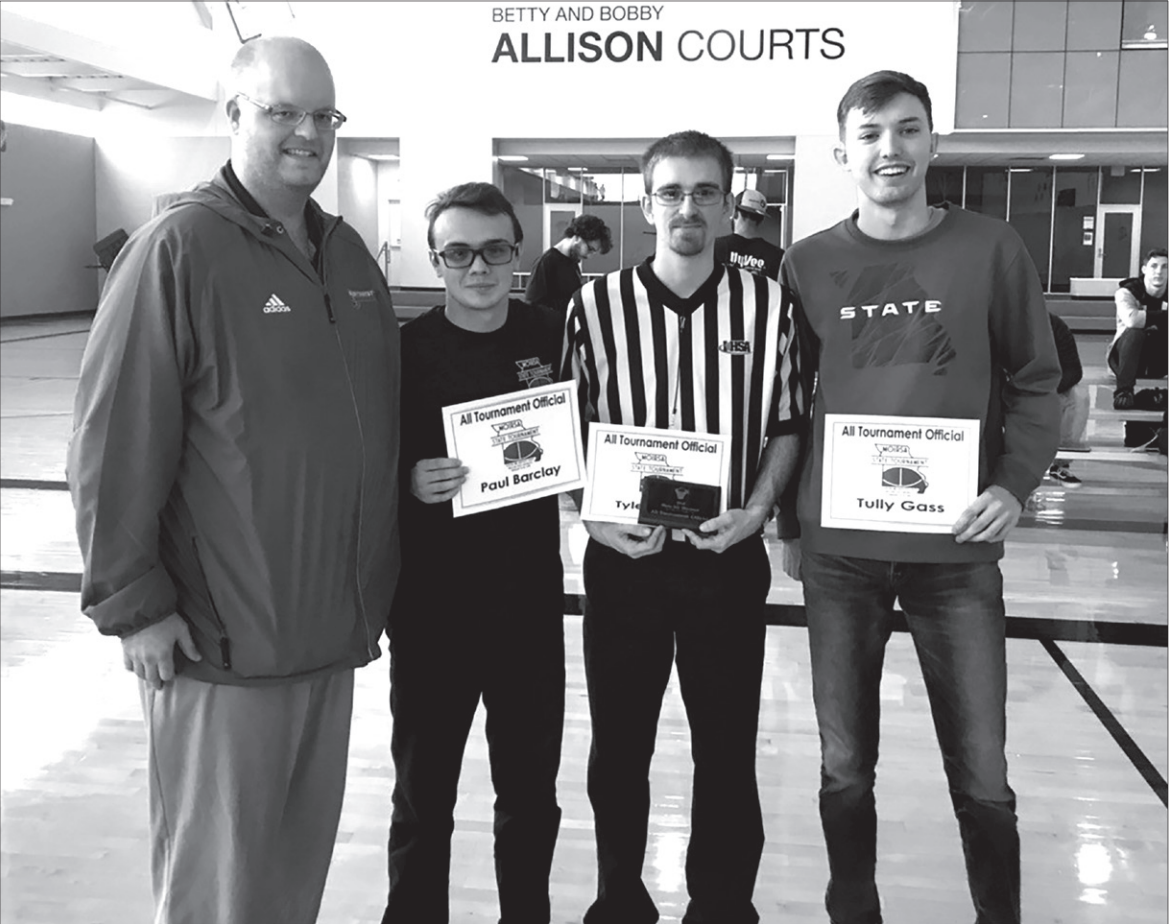
Paul Barclay, a fifth-year senior at Northwest, claimed the honor of being a top three referee at the Missouri Intramural Recreational Sports Association yearly tournament.

Many referees on a daily basis are pushed to the limits with technicalities and the judgement of the fans. So it's easy to question the motivation to become a referee in the first place. For Barclay, this isn't about the glory, but the greatness of the games he calls and his passion to provide accurate calls.

"I do it to get a better look on sports, because a lot of people just watch the game, but at the same time when you are officiating you see a lot more," Barclay said. "It's hard to explain, because people asked me before 'why do you officiate,' I do it for the experience."

Barclay's journey began shortly after he started his career at Northwest. As a freshman he called intramural football games before he eventually switched to basketball his junior year. Now three years later Barclay is striving like he never has before.

"I'm not for the recognition, I'm not here to just get big," Barclay said. "That's why I am surprised to be interviewed for anything, I'm here to just have fun,



Director of Student Recreation James Hinson presents Paul Barclay (Northwest), Tyler Lamb (Missouri S&T) and Tully Glass (Missouri State) with All-Tournament awards following the MOIRSA Show-Me Shootout Feb. 16-18 in Springfield, Missouri.

I'm here to officiate and I'm here to make a difference in people and how they think about officials."

The MoIRSA tournament is held each year at Missouri State University, where the best of the best intramural teams take the stage to become the Missouri in-

tramural champions. Northwest brought one of their teams into this tournament and the Ballin Bearcats represented the school well. After pool play the team was listed as the number one team in the tournament and given a bye, before they lost to the eventual

champions from Missouri State.

Barclay was awarded recognition as a top three referee during the span that the tournament was played. The recognition comes from an evaluation done during the tournament, where people were able to rate their referees

based on performance.

Another form of evaluation that the committee of officials used to judge an officials performance was the NMAA (New Mexico Activities Association) rubix. This rubix gave basic percentages of how much each form of their jobs mattered including: uniform, mechanics, judgement, speed/movement/positioning, decisiveness/game control and rules application.

"There are a couple different staff committees," Director of Student Recreation James Hinson said. "There is an officials committee that's run by staff, generally its folks that have high school background for basketball and they evaluate officials."

Now with recognition from a well recognized event, Barclay is trying to take his abilities to bigger and better things. Barclay has recently applied to referee regionals March 23-25 at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Barclay knows that he would never have had the opportunity if he didn't stick with his core values of being a official.

"The biggest thing is you gotta love the sport, you gotta stay interested and you gotta have thick skin," Barclay said. "Professionalism is the biggest thing for me: you gotta be loud, you gotta be confident, you gotta know your mechanics, you gotta be safe and professional, you gotta look professional you're out there, you're the big guy with the stripes."

# Track and field sends four to national meet

JUSTIN QUICK  
Chief Reporter | @Jquick88

Following a strong showing at the MIAA conference meet, four Northwest track and field athletes were selected to compete in the NCAA Division II Championships March 9-10 in Pittsburg, Kansas.



Tuesday evening, the NCAA released the championship qualifying list, which included juniors Kevin Shultz and Audrey Wichmann, and sophomores Hiba Mahgoub and Jordan Hammond. Shultz and Wichmann both qualified for the high jump, while Mahgoub and Hammond qualified in the 400 meter dash. Wichmann was the only double qualifier for the Bearcats, making the cut in the pentathlon.

The news Tuesday added to the excitement for coach Scott Lorek from the way the team competed at conference. The men finished in ninth place while the women took third behind Pittsburg State and Central Missouri.

"This weekend (MIAA meet) went as well as it could have on either side, our men finished ninth, but a lot of promising things there," Lorek said. "On the women's side, we just turned out, had a great meet and we competed probably the best I've ever seen."

The Bearcats were led by their four qualifiers, along with other contributions throughout the meet. Shultz finished third in the heptathlon with a total of 5111 points, while landing in a tie for second place in the high jump, clearing 6-9. Senior Wick Cunningham stepped onto the podium finishing in third place in the 3,000 meter run at 8:32.07.

Cunningham put the thought of his last indoor meet out of his mind and focused on his race during the meet.

"Honestly, at the time, I really



Finishing third in the 800 meter dash with a time of 2:17.35, junior Sessie Matzen contributed to the women's third place finish overall at Sunday's MIAA Indoor Track Championships.

was not thinking about it because it's almost like the season has never ended," Cunningham said. "We just hop right into outdoor (season), getting to see a lot of the same faces."

On the women's side Hammond, Mahgoub and Wichmann led a string of top ten finishes for the Bearcats. Hammond placed third in the 60 meter hurdles at 8.66. She took a fifth-place fin-

ish in the 400 meter with a time of 56.00 and was followed by Mahgoub in sixth at 56.14.

Wichmann took second in the high jump clearing 5-5 and finished third in the pentathlon racking up 3547. She combined with Hammond, Mahgoub and freshman Maja Ganter in the 4x400 meter relay to finish fourth with a time of 3:52.59.

On aspect that led to the

Bearcats' success was handling the emotions of a conference meet for the younger athletes. Lorek said the results of managing the team's emotions were mixed.

"It was a little mixed," Lorek said. "We had some that did real well and some that struggled a little bit. Either way I think they all benefited from it and will profit from it and I think it will be good things to move on with."

# Utility man provides power behind plate in first season at Northwest

WYATT BELL  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Following an impressive weekend at the plate, in which he helped his squad to a weekend sweep of rival Emporia State, Northwest baseball's Hudson Bilodeau has been named MIAA Hitter of the Week.



New to Northwest this year, Bilodeau didn't take long to emerge as a game changer for Northwest baseball, starting the season 9-of-26, posting a .360 batting average with seven RBI's and two home runs, including a 7-16 batting ef-

fort in the series against Emporia State.

Hailing from Amarillo, Texas, Bilodeau has always had a passion for baseball. He says it is something that has always been there for him.

"Growing up, I started playing baseball and hockey," Bilodeau said. "There's not much hockey in Texas, so I stuck with baseball. It's been there for me my whole life."

Bilodeau, a senior this year, has made a couple of stops on his journey to Northwest, including a stint at California State San Marcos, where he spent two seasons,

one playing and one redshirted. From there, he played summer ball in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he says he was talked into coming to Northwest.

"I played with a couple of guys in summer ball in Myrtle Beach that went here, and they kind of talked me into coming here. I'm glad they did," Bilodeau said.

According to Northwest head coach Darin Loe, Bilodeau makes a welcome addition to the team, bringing energy and character.

"He's a high energy guy. Everything he does at the plate, behind the plate, in the outfield, you

know, he's a high character guy," said Loe. "Being a senior, knowing the situation and knowing what he needs to do to help his team, he took advantage of that and he's a guy we need in our lineup every day."

Bilodeau, a catcher by trade, has adapted to different positions since coming to Northwest, playing in multiple different spots on the diamond and is something that Loe thinks highly of.

"When Hudson came here, a catcher by trade, he saw the competition at catcher and just wanted to get in the line-up," Loe said.

"He asked to go to the outfield and is starting to feel a little more comfortable out there. It's a credit to him, seeing that early and knowing how he could help the team best."

Bilodeau feels right at home in his first year at Northwest. He describes the feel of the Maryville and campus as "a winning spirit."

"It's an awesome culture around here, and I love it; it's just a winning spirit around here," Bilodeau said.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



# Women find ray of hope in woeful season

**JOSH REXROAT**  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

After a lackluster season, the Northwest women ended the year on a high note and took a step in the right direction. The Bearcats (5-22, 4-15 MIAA) finished their season Saturday, Feb. 24, against Lincoln. The Bearcats ended the year with a victory in Jefferson City 76-65, completing the sweep of the Blue Tigers.

“It was such a great feeling to end my college career with a win,” senior forward Tanya Meyers said. “To be able to end it on a positive note with my teammates next to me was great.”

The Bearcats finished their season ranked 13th in the MIAA, and with some of the lowest marks in Bearcat history. Thirteenth is the lowest MIAA rank for the Bearcats since the 2015-16 season. The Bearcats also completed the year with just four MIAA wins.

The four wins are tied for the most wins in conference play for the Bearcats since the 2014-15 season.

This season, the Bearcats totaled one out-of-conference win, making five wins on the year, tied for the lowest since 2015-16.

The Bearcats, as a team, averaged 61.3 points per game, and allowed 74.1 points per game.

“Our team progressed tremendously throughout the course of this season,” freshman guard Jaelyn Haggard said. “We started off slower than we wanted. But once we hit the second semester, we picked up the pace, and grew a lot on and off the floor with the adversity we faced throughout the season.”



Freshman guard Jaelyn Haggard was named MIAA co-Freshman of the Year, averaging 13 points and 2.5 assists this season.

The Bearcats finished with many low marks this season, but the players received a few honors from the MIAA after the season. The Bearcats had two players on the Honorable Mention All-MI-

AA Team. Meyers was one of the two selected.

“It is a good honor,” Meyers said. “I’m just blessed to have been able to play at the collegiate level that not many get the chance to do.”

This is Meyers third time selected to an All-MIAA team, and second time selected to the Honorable Mention Team.

Along with Meyers, Haggard was named to the Honorable Mention All-MIAA Team.

Haggard also received the MIAA co-Freshman of the Year award.

“We have a team full of great basketball players, and the girls we play are all deserving of this award,” Haggard said. “I was blessed with the ability to play ball, and my goal was never to play for any accolade. I just try to play every game with a spark and give it everything I’ve got.”

Haggard started all 27 games for the Bearcats, and averaged 13 points per game and 2.5 assists per game. Haggard averaged 36.6 percent from the field, and 36.1 percent from beyond the arc this season.

Haggard is the first player to win the Freshman of the Year award in Northwest history.

“To be named Freshmen of the Year was a huge honor,” Haggard said. “I am incredibly thankful to have received that title, as there are lots of athletes worth recognizing in this conference. All the credit goes to my teammates, who pushed me every day in practice, as well as my coaches for giving me the opportunities to play and grow as a player on this team.”

According to sports information director Marshall Fey, coach Buck Scheel was unavailable to media due to a recruiting trip.

# Young core readies to lead ‘Hounds to next level

**TUCKER FRANKLIN**  
Chief Reporter | @THEREAL\_tuckerf

The Maryville girls basketball team’s season drew to a close Feb. 23, after a second round district loss to the eventual champion Hamilton Hornets 64-55. Maryville (11-15, 2-5 MEC) couldn’t get to the final game of districts behind 33 points from freshman Serena Sundell. The stellar freshman now has the three highest single-game totals in Spoofhound history.

Sundell and junior teammate Emma Baldwin received first team all-district awards following the conclusion of the season.

Although Maryville lost to tournament host Penny, coach Quentin Albrecht said his team can take the Hornets’ story and use it as encouragement.

“It is always nice to know that you lost to the best team in the area in our class,” Albrecht said. “We can use Hamilton’s championship as motivation.”

They had lost to Trenton three times, but in the end, they won the most important of those four games. So if first you don’t succeed then try, try again.”

The tale of the Hamilton Hornets will most likely be told in more than one locker room across the area. After the game, senior Amberlea Auffert explained in her four years as a Spoofhound, this year was the greatest.

“I was very happy with our season,” Auffert said. “I think we kind of got on the low end of it when we got lower than 10 points. I wish we would’ve come back and won,

but it doesn’t matter at this point. What matters is we’ve improved after ever year, and this was our best year.”

Led by a strong freshman class, the Spoofhounds look to build on what they have. The experience from this year will prove to be valuable as Maryville had three freshmen get serious minutes. Freshmen like Sundell, Emily Cassavaugh and Morgan Stoecklein will turn into on-court leaders with the experience from this year. Albrecht explained the best outcome from this season is now other teams have learned to take the Spoofhounds seriously.

Although the season has come to a close, Albrecht said next year is all about the preparations during the offseason.

“The season might be over, but the future is bright this year,” Albrecht said. “With a great offseason, we could be the ones playing for a district title. This is the most important offseason since I arrived at Maryville. We control our own destiny.”

Optimism was surrounding the Maryville locker room knowing what the future holds for the team. Even though the Spoofhounds aren’t bringing home a district title, they know



Freshman Serena Sundell led Maryville with 33 points in the a 64-55 loss to Penney Feb 23, giving her the three highest scoring games in Spoofhound girls history.

that it’s possible they could in just three years.

With the end of the season comes the end of an era. The Spoofhounds say goodbye to three seniors in Affurt, Jessica Sheil and Maddie Holtman. After the most successful season under Albrecht, he explained the standard is becoming higher from year to year.

“We expect to continue to raise the bar,” Albrecht said. “In wins, expectations and competitiveness. The biggest addition will be the

gaining of experience from this season.

We also have a few girls from the middle school that we are excited to bring to the high school, and to see what they can do at this level.”

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	NABC Rankings		Central Regional Rankings		MIAA STANDINGS		MIAA STANDINGS		MIAA STANDINGS		MIAA STANDINGS	
	OVERALL POINTS		OVERALL REGION		OVERALL MIAA		OVERALL MIAA		OVERALL MIAA		OVERALL MIAA	
	Lincoln Memorial.....	27-1 397	NORTHWEST.....	22-3 21-3	Washburn.....	9-2 0-0	Pittsburg State.....	9-4 3-0	Central Oklahoma.....	8-5 3-0	NORTHWEST.....	6-6 3-0
	Ferris State.....	29-1 381	Northern State.....	27-3 26-3	Central Oklahoma.....	7-4 0-0	Central Oklahoma.....	8-5 3-0	Central Missouri.....	9-2 2-1	Central Missouri.....	9-2 2-1
	Western Oregon.....	27-1 374	Southern Nazarene.....	23-2 23-2	Northeastern State.....	5-5 0-0	NORTHWEST.....	6-6 3-0	Lindenwood.....	9-4 2-1	Lindenwood.....	9-4 2-1
	Bellarmine.....	25-2 345	Missouri Southern.....	19-7 19-7	Emporia State.....	6-7 0-0	Central Missouri.....	9-2 2-1	Nebraska Kearney.....	5-8 2-1	Nebraska Kearney.....	5-8 2-1
	Queens.....	26-2 324	SW Minnesota State.....	22-7 22-7	Lindenwood.....	4-5 0-0	Northeastern State.....	8-5 1-2	Southwest Baptist.....	6-8 1-2	Southwest Baptist.....	6-8 1-2
	Morehouse.....	24-1 317	St. Cloud State.....	21-6 21-6	NORTHWEST.....	3-5 0-0	Missouri Southern.....	3-5 0-0	Missouri Southern.....	11-2 0-0	Missouri Southern.....	11-2 0-0
	NORTHWEST.....	24-3 301	Minnesota State Mankato.....	21-8 19-8	Missouri Southern.....	3-6 0-0	Fort Hays State.....	7-6 0-3	Fort Hays State.....	7-6 0-3	Fort Hays State.....	7-6 0-3
West Liberty.....		25-2 274	Northwestern Oklahoma.....	20-6 20-6	Central Missouri.....	4-8 0-0	Emporia State.....	6-7 0-3	Emporia State.....	6-7 0-3	Emporia State.....	6-7 0-3
Northern State.....		29-3 273	Central Oklahoma.....	18-9 18-9	Pittsburg State.....	4-8 0-0	Missouri Western.....	5-8 0-3	Missouri Western.....	5-8 0-3	Missouri Western.....	5-8 0-3
Southern Nazarene.....		24-2 264	Washburn.....	16-8 16-8	Lincoln.....	2-6 0-0	Nebraska Kearney.....	2-8 0-0	Washburn.....	4-8 0-3	Washburn.....	4-8 0-3
Findlay.....		25-3 256			Missouri Western.....	3-9 0-0	Fort Hays State.....	2-11 0-0				
West Florida.....		25-3 217			Southwest Baptist.....	3-10 0-0						
West Texas A&M.....		24-3 214			Nebraska Kearney.....	2-8 0-0						
Valdosta State.....		25-3 195			Fort Hays State.....	2-11 0-0						



# Bus driver boosts Bearcat Athletics culture

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

At the nucleus of every road trip taken by Northwest Athletics, there lies an unsung hero. Bearcat bus drivers are an oft-overlooked facet of Northwest sports and activities, even though they’ve literally sat in the driver’s seat on the road to National Championships. Jeremy Johnson is one of those unheralded drivers.

Johnson has been a Bearcat bus driver for the last four years, hired in 2014. He’s traveled all across the country in that time, delivering Bearcats safely from one destination to the next.

Although Johnson drives for all sports and activities, he may be best known for his work with the Bearcat baseball team. Johnson often live-tweets updates during road baseball games from @JeremyJohnson76. True to his trade, Johnson’s profile picture, like many pictures on his account, features the Northwest charter bus. Johnson was slow to admit which activity was his favorite to accompany.

“I drive for all the sports and activities,” Johnson said. “I hate to disrespect any sport, but football’s pretty fun to take. Baseball’s real-



Northwest bus drivers including Jeremy Johnson, are an often-overlooked, vital part of Bearcat Athletics, as they safely deliver athletes to destinations all across the country.

ly fun; there’s a lot of activity over the three or four days we’re gone.”

On the surface, Johnson’s Twitter feed seems to be more active during the spring season. He had a busy fall, nonetheless, sharing photos from trips as short as Missouri Western and as far as Michigan.

“I really look forward to this time of year,” Johnson said. “My son plays baseball up in Iowa, so once Bearcat baseball starts, I’m

busy watching baseball until the World Series, I suppose.”

The baseball team is glad to have Johnson in the driver’s seat on its road trips. His Northwest fandom and familiarity add a sense of comfort to the sometimes-long bus rides between stops.

“(Johnson) is a huge fan, and he’s huge part of our team,” baseball coach Darin Loe said. “He’s a guy that’ll do anything for us, and anything for the guys. It’s great

to have your bus driver as one of your top fans along with you just about every trip.”

In some ways, Johnson lucked into his position as a bus driver. The 42-year-old gained experience as a commercial vehicle driver during the eight years he spent with the National Guard in the Military Transportation Unit.

“I met my wife four-and-a-half years ago, and moved down here.”

Johnson said. “She was a Northwest graduate, and she ended up getting a job on campus right before I did, right before we got married. I worked up in Iowa at a factory for a year (before that), and for 13 years before that, I worked at a rock quarry.”

Like with any job, working as a Northwest bus driver comes with its perks and drawbacks. For Johnson, the best and worst parts can both come driving the bus.

“I enjoy it out on the road; I enjoy seeing the scenery and all the sights,” Johnson said. “My first long trip was actually to Panama City Beach, so I spent three days down on the beach- that was pretty neat. I’ve been to Galveston (Texas). I’ve been out to Colorado, and up to Wisconsin and Chicago. Chicago was the worst trip I’ve taken, just due to the fact that I was driving a bus in Chicago. That was terrible.”

Besides the mini-getaways that Johnson leads, the best part of being a bus driver for him is witnessing the work of the students he chauffeurs. Transporting Bearcats gives Johnson’s work a sense of meaning.

“I think that knowing I’m helping the student-athletes,” Johnson said. “Helping them get to their destinations, getting them there and back safely, I mean that’s a real key to why I do what I do.”

## Baseball opens conference play with walkoff weekend

TRENT SPINNER  
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

Extra inning energy propelled the Northwest baseball team (6-6) forward as they found a second gear in the series sweep of Emporia State (6-7)

This sparked the Bearcats to prove the unlikely wrong as they mustered three comebacks to begin MIAA play perfect (3-0).

Weather became an early factor in this series, as unplayable conditions forced the Bearcats, once home opener, to Emporia. It didn’t stop there though, as the se-

ries turned into a doubleheader on Sunday and the third game took place on Monday.

Though the games were played in Emporia, Northwest was still technically the home team, giving the Bearcats the bottom half of the inning to bat.

The walk-off weekend began in the 14th inning of game one, as senior Alixon Herrera pushed a ball into left field stands, giving Northwest the 3-2 walk-off victory, and allowing craziness to ensue in the next two games.

Just as the weekend started it finished with the excitement that most games never could provide.

Senior Hudson Bilodeau brought the Bearcats back in two different circumstances, as he homered to notch the game up at 10-10 in the eighth inning.

The Bearcats then finished off the Hornets in the 12th inning when they were down by one with only two outs to give and a runner on. Bilodeau took another shot deep to give the Bearcats the 12-10 victory in the third game.

“My first thought was I hoped it was deep enough to get the run in from third, but then it just went out,” Bilodeau said. “I glanced over at the guys running out of the bullpen and the guys running out

of the dugout, and it was an unreal feeling. God blessed me with a great opportunity to do something cool there, and it was awesome.”

One of the main issues for the Bearcats throughout the start of the season was their ability to plate runs to support their pitching staff. That idea soon went out the window as the Bearcats scored seven runs in game two and 12 runs in game three.

Northwest batted to a whole new standard for their team, as everyone soon became a core con-

NEXT GAME
<b>Northwest @ Fort Hays State</b> March 2-4 @ 3 p.m., 2 p.m. 1 p.m.

tributor to plating the runs they lacked previously.

“Our team is really good at the fact that any part of the lineup can get hot at anytime,” Bilodeau said.

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# NOT THREE... NOT FOUR...

## Northwest claims fifth-consecutive regular season title

JOSEPH ANDREWS  
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe\_Andrews15

Nobody ever told Ben McCollum coaching a championship caliber team was going to be an easy task.



Somehow, he found the right recipe, leading the Bearcats (24-3, 16-3 MIAA) to five appearances in the NCAA Division II central regional tournament.

A sixth is imminent as the quest for back-to-back national championships begins 95 miles away from Maryville in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

The Bearcats claimed their sixth regular season conference title (fifth straight) under McCollum outright in a 73-55 victory over Lincoln (15-14, 9-10 MIAA) Feb. 4.

It also secured McCollum's 200th career victory. Each win throughout his nine-year career has occurred with Northwest.

"I hope my wife saves some of the newspapers and all that stuff," McCollum said. "We try to enjoy it when we win them. I think the biggest thing is continuing to improve our culture and continuing to improve as a program."

The No. 1 seed Bearcats have the chance to compete in three games in the same amount of days, as it searches for its third consecutive MIAA tournament championship.

"It gets more exciting now," senior guard Justin Pitts said. "It's playing hard. It's going to be a fun weekend."

Pitts was named the MIAA Player of the Year for the third consecutive year Feb. 27, despite

missing action in February due to turf toe.

He saw his first full week of relevant action against Lindenwood (17-12, 8-11 MIAA) and Lincoln on Feb. 22 and 24. He scored a combined 31 points in the games.

"The last two games helped a lot," Pitts said. "Being able to trust it more and see what I can and cannot do without it bothering me too much."

Senior forward Chris-Ebou Ndow is also recovering from an ankle injury he obtained against Missouri Southern (20-8, 15-4 MIAA) Feb. 17.

McCollum mentioned the All-MIAA Second Team athlete is recovering and has the possibility to return to the court in the opening round of the MIAA Tournament.

"I'd assume he'd play based on everything I understand," McCollum said. "I can't guarantee it. I would assume he would play."

Senior guard Xavier Kurth also missed two games due to injury earlier in the season. The recovery gives the athletes an extra edge heading into the postseason.

"I think guys are going to be fresher, as long as they get fully healthy," McCollum said. "When you get injured, sometimes it freshens your mind up."

Northwest's path through the tournament begins with No. 8 seed Pittsburg State (17-12, 9-10 MIAA) at 6 p.m. March 2 at the Municipal Auditorium.

The Gorillas knocked off No. 9 seed Lincoln 81-60 in the opening round of the tournament Feb. 27.

"Pitt State is extremely talented," McCollum said. "One through five, they're as talented as anyone in the league."



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest coach Ben McCollum reached a career milestone Feb. 4, earning his 200th win in a 73-55 win over Lincoln Feb. 4. McCollum has also been instrumental for the Bearcat basketball team winning five-straight MIAA regular season titles.

200 WINS

200-74

125-54 MIAA

6 REGULAR SEASON MIAA TITLES

TAYLOR GONNERMAN | NW MISSOURIAN



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN  
Senior guard Justin Pitts was recently named MIAA Player of the Year, becoming the first athlete in Northwest history to receive this honor for three straight years.

## Hot start plus rollercoaster middle creates question mark for finale

ISAIAH SWANN  
Sports Editor  
@iswanny10

The Northwest men's basketball team is entering a spot that, at the moment, feels uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

Let's sum up the season in a few paragraphs, while also examining the challenges that still stand in front of the powerhouse that is the Bearcat (24-3) basketball team.

The reigning national champs began the season hot, shooting the ball at a higher percentage than last season's historic run.

During Northwest's 12-0 start in the 2017-18 campaign, the Bearcats built their resume ripping through the No. 2 ranked team in the region, Northern State (29-3), as well as the No. 1 ranked team in the current NABC polls, Lincoln Memorial (27-1).

Then came a couple of losses

to a Missouri Southern team that has historically caused Northwest problems. After all, the Bearcats are 2-8 in their last 10 road games, and 6-4 since 2008 in the last 10 home games against the Lions.

Add another odd road loss to a Nebraska-Kearney squad who sits No. 6 in the MIAA bracket, and thus begins the first of many unknowns for Northwest going forward.

Injuries from seniors Chris-Ebou Ndow and Justin Pitts throw another curve ball into the equation. This, with a down year from Pitts (sidebar, he still won MIAA Player of the Year), an inconsistent showing toward the end of the regular season and here we are.

While Pitts has been great, a player with his skill set is expected, or at least depended upon, to be unparalleled or marvelous or stupendous or whatever word that associates with the best in Division II basketball.

Everyone knows how good Pitts can be, but that's not how he's performed. The counter to my

argument is that he's playing in a different role around a team that's much more equipped.

Though the senior point guard is paralyzing when at his peak, winning doesn't all fall on him. Junior transfer Joey Witthus is looking to put his name in Northwest history, while senior forward Brett Dougherty is searching to exit the Bearcat history books as arguably the most underrated player in MIAA history.

In conclusion, the feeling between last season and this season's title run is completely and utterly incomparable.

Last year, Northwest was hungry and hunting for blood. This year, it's not the same, and even McCollum has mentioned that this is one of the hardest teams he's ever coached. Why?

McCollum has to 'manufacture' this hunger and desire and he's had to do it all year. Sometimes, it's worked, and sometimes, it hasn't.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

## SPORTS BRIEF

### Tjeerdsma announces retirement from athletics

He became Northwest's savior and after 17 years of coaching football and five years as the athletic director, Mel Tjeerdsma is officially retiring.

"It's hard to put into words how blessed I've been to work with our athletics administrative staff," Tjeerdsma said in a press release by the university.

Effective April 30, Tjeerdsma will step down from operations at Northwest Missouri State and retire.

"I'll always be grateful to all of our coaches for all of the energy and enthusiasm that they put into our athletics program each day," Tjeerdsma said. "Along with all of those mentioned, I want to give a special thanks to our student-athletes and our great fans who make up the Bearcat family. It's been a thrill to serve as athletics director at Northwest."

Tjeerdsma was involved either as a coach or athletic director in all six of Northwest's football's (1998, 1999, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2016) national titles.

He was also present when Northwest men's basketball captured its program's first Division II National Championship in 2017.

During his coaching tenure at Northwest, Tjeerdsma accumulated a 183-43 record, capturing three NCAA Division II national championships and 12 MIAA titles.

On Jan 8, Tjeerdsma was selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame by the National Football Foundation. He will be inducted in December but is the first person to be honored in Bearcat history.

Tjeerdsma has been at the center of it all when it comes to Northwest's athletic success.

While he can't take credit for every win or postseason accomplishment, Tjeerdsma said the current system couldn't be done without the culture each coach and athlete standby to this day in an interview with KXCXV Feb. 28.

"All of our coaches in all of our sports have done a good job of recruiting good kids," Tjeerdsma said.